Use of Restraints - Corrections Officers

513.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This policy establishes guidelines for the application, supervisory oversight of, and restrictions on the use of restraints on persons incarcerated in this facility.

This policy shall apply to the use of specific types of restraints, such as four/five-point restraints, restraint chairs, ambulatory restraints, and similar restraint systems, as well as all other restraints, including handcuffs, waist chains, and leg irons when such restraints are used to restrain any inmate for prolonged periods.

513.1.1 DEFINITIONS

Definitions related to this policy include:

Clinical restraints - Restraints applied when an inmate's disruptive, assaultive, and/or self-injurious behavior is related to a medical or mental illness. Clinical restraints can include leather, rubber, or canvas hand and leg restraints with contact points on a specialized bed (four/five-point restraints) or a portable restraint chair.

Therapeutic seclusion - Segregated confinement of an agitated, vulnerable, and/or severely anxious inmate with a serious mental illness as part of their treatment when clinically indicated for preventive therapeutic purposes.

513.2 POLICY

It is the policy of this office that restraints shall be used only to prevent self-injury, injury to others, or property damage. Restraints may also be applied according to inmate classification, such as maximum security, to control the behavior of a high-risk inmate while the inmate is being moved outside the cell or housing unit.

Restraints shall never be used for retaliation or as punishment. Restraints shall not be utilized any longer than is reasonably necessary to control the inmate. Restraints are to be applied only when less restrictive methods of controlling the dangerous behavior of an inmate have failed or appear likely to fail. Each incident where restraints are used beyond compliant handcuffing shall be documented as a use of force by the handling staff member and the documents placed in the appropriate file prior to the end of the staff member's shift.

This policy does not apply to the temporary use of restraints, such as handcuffing or the use of leg irons to control an inmate during movement and transportation inside or outside the facility.

513.3 USE OF RESTRAINTS - CONTROL

Supervisors shall proactively oversee the use of restraints on any inmate. Whenever feasible, the use of restraints, other than routine use during transfer, shall require the approval of the Shift Supervisor prior to application. In instances where prior approval is not feasible, the Shift Supervisor shall be apprised of the use of restraints as soon as practicable.

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Restraint devices, such as restraint chairs, shall only be used on an inmate when it reasonably appears necessary to overcome resistance, prevent escape, or bring an incident under control, thereby preventing injury to the inmate or others, or eliminating the possibility of property damage. Restraints shall not be applied for more time than is reasonably necessary to achieve the above goals.

Excluding short-term use to gain immediate control, placing an inmate in a restraint chair or other restraints for extended periods requires approval from the Chief Deputy of Corrections or the authorized designee prior to taking action. The medical staff shall be called to observe the application of the restraints, when feasible, prior to the application or as soon as practicable after the application, and to check the inmate for adequate circulation.

The use of restraints for purposes other than for the controlled movement or transportation of an inmate shall be documented on appropriate logs to include, at minimum, the type of restraint used, when it was applied, a detailed description of why the restraint was needed, and when it was removed.

The following provisions shall be followed when utilizing restraints to control an inmate:

(a) Restraints shall not be used as punishment, placed around a person's neck, or applied in a way that is likely to cause undue physical discomfort or restrict blood flow or breathing (e.g., hog-tying) (RCW 10.116.022).

(b) Restrained inmates shall not be placed facedown or in a position that inhibits breathing.

(c) Restraints shall not be used to secure a person to a fixed object except as a temporary emergency measure. A person who is being transported shall not be locked in any manner to any part of the transporting vehicle, except for items installed for passenger safety, such as seat belts.

(d) Inmates in restraints shall be housed either alone or in an area designated for restrained inmates.

(e) Restraints shall be applied for no longer than is reasonably necessary to protect the inmate or others from harm.

(f) Staff members shall conduct direct face-to-face observation at least twice every 30 minutes on an irregular schedule to check the inmate's physical well-being and behavior. Restraints shall be checked to verify correct application and to ensure they do not compromise circulation. All checks shall be documented, with the actual time recorded by the person doing the observation, along with a description of the inmate's behavior. Any actions taken should also be noted in the log.

(g) The specific reasons for the continued need for restraints shall be reviewed, documented, and approved by the Chief Deputy of Corrections or the Shift Supervisor at least every two hours.

(h) As soon as possible, but within four hours of placement in restraints, the inmate shall be medically assessed to determine whether the inmate has a serious medical condition that is being masked by the aggressive behavior. The medical assessment

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shall be a face-to-face evaluation by a qualified health care professional and shall recur once every six hours of continued restraint thereafter.

(i) As soon as possible, but within eight hours of placement in restraints, the inmate must be evaluated by a mental health professional to assess whether the inmate needs immediate and/or long-term mental health treatment.

513.3.1 USE OF RESTRAINTS FOR COURT HEARINGS

Prior judicial approval should be obtained for any inmate restraints that will be used in any court proceeding.

Juveniles shall not be brought before the court for any court appearance wearing any physical restraint devices except when ordered by the court (JuCR 1.6).

513.4 USE OF RESTRAINTS - CLINICAL

Inmates may be considered for clinically ordered restraints or seclusion when exhibiting dangerous behavior that is believed to be a product of a medical or mental illness and that puts the inmate and/or others at risk of physical harm, or when medical care is urgently required and the inmate is not considered competent to give or withhold consent.

Clinical restraints and/or therapeutic seclusion shall only be used when an inmate's safety or the safety of others cannot be protected by less restrictive means and only upon the direct order of a qualified health care professional and notification of the Chief Deputy of Corrections or the authorized designee prior to taking action. Restraints shall be used no longer than is reasonably necessary to provide for the legitimate safety concerns of the inmate, staff, or others.

513.5 RANGE OF MOTION

Inmates placed in restraints for longer than two hours should receive a range-of-motion procedure that will allow for the movement of the extremities. Range-of-motion exercise will consist of alternate movement of the extremities for a minimum of 10 minutes every two hours. If this is not practical, due to the inmate's erratic or unreasonable behavior the shift supervisor shall document the reason on the restraint log.

513.6 HYDRATION, AND SANITATION

Inmates who are confined in restraints shall be offered fluids. Hydration (water or juices) will be provided no less than once every two hours or reasonably when requested by the inmate. (fluids, can be provided via a straw)

Offering hydration to inmates will be documented to include the time, the name of the person offering the food or water/juices, and the inmate's response (receptive, rejected). Provisions should be made to accommodate any toileting needs at least once every two hours. Inmates should be given the opportunity to clean themselves should they soil themselves or their clothing

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while they are in restraints. If an inmate refuses or the behavior of the inmate does not allow for them to clean themselves, this will be documented.

513.7 RESTRAINED INMATE HOLDING

Restrained inmates should be protected from abuse by other inmates. Under no circumstances will restrained inmates be housed with inmates who are not in restraints. In most instances, restrained inmates are housed alone or in an area designated for restrained inmates.

513.8 PREGNANT INMATES

Leg irons or waist chains shall not be used on any inmate known to be pregnant. Except in extraordinary circumstances no restraints of any kind may be used on any pregnant inmate during transportation to and from visits to medical providers or court proceedings at any time during the third trimester of pregnancy or postpartum recovery. "Extraordinary circumstances" exist where a member makes an individualized determination that restraints are necessary to prevent the inmate from escaping or injuring themself, medical or safety personnel, or others. Should restraints be necessary, the restraints shall be the least restrictive available and most reasonable under the circumstances (RCW 70.48.500).

513.8.1 INMATES IN LABOR

While an inmate is in labor or in childbirth, no restraints of any kind may be used (RCW 70.48.500(2)). This does not prohibit a treating physician licensed under Title 18 RCW from requesting the use of hospital restraints for the medical safety of an inmate.

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